the scene is Oxford. "This year", writes Anthony Wood, *sub anno* 1650, "Jacob, a Jew, opened a Coffee House in the Parish of St. Peter in the East, Oxon; and there it was by some, who delighted in noveltie, drank." This Jacob may or may not have been identical with another person mentioned by Wood, "Cirques Jobson, a Jew and Jacobite, born near Mount Libanus, who sold coffee in Oxon. in a house between Edmund Hall and Queen Co. corner." Subsequently, according to the same authority, Jacob left Oxford and transferred his business to London, "in old Southampton Buildings in Holborne". He was still alive in 1671. The whole question calls for further investigation; what however seems to be quite clear is that coffee was first introduced to England by Levantine Jews, who already had a considerable interest in the commodity in their own country. In Egypt, indeed, coffee was already so much associated with the Jews that it was generally termed "Jews' Drink".

More important was the case of tobacco. When not long after the first landing, the ship's doctor on Columbus' first expedition, Mestre Bernal (who was of Jewish birth, and had indeed figured as a Judaiser in an auto-de-fe) returned to the Admiral's vessel, his companions were surprised to see him breathing smoke out of his mouth —a procedure which apparently had something to do with an imperceptibly-fuming tube which he held in his hand. This was the first recorded use by any European, or by

any man whose name has been preserved to history, of tobacco. From that time onwards, the association of Jews with the tobacco industry was always intimate: and they contributed thereby incidentally, to a considerable degree, in laying the foundation of American economic prosperity.

The Rabbis, though they questioned the permissibility of smoking on Sabbaths and Holydays, never took up the